CALL FOR GREAT IDEAS FOR THE BAYS PRECINCT

By way of introduction, I have worked on and around Sydney Harbour for 38 years both with the former Maritime Services Board and currently as Managing Director of Waterway Constructions.

My wife and family are local residents of Lilyfield and I have also been involved in the consultative process for planning in the Bays Precinct for over 15 years through my involvement with the Sydney Harbour Maritime Forum.

Along with many others, Amanda and I have chosen to live in the area because of its proximity to the city, its diversity and its character.

An essential part of that character is the harbour and the harbour related activities with which we share – the port and working harbour activities pre-dated most of us yet we chose to live here.

Whilst many places seek a point of differentiation, the Bays Precinct has it very clearly in our port related history, our harbour-side proximity and the lifestyle afforded by a place of rich heritage and modern convenience.

Call for Great Ideas

As local residents we see the following matters as being important with regard to the first four priority destinations –

**Bays Waterfront Promenade**

- Improved access to the waterfront should have regard to security and safety constraints associated with working harbour sites where strict WHS obligations exist. In such circumstances, the promenade could be located behind the working yard but include corridors between yards to a safe waterfront viewing point. This is particularly relevant in Rozelle Bay.

- The promenade could be elevated in certain locations to provide an overview particularly where direct waterfront access cannot be provided. This could have application below the cliff line behind White Bay Cruise Terminal and adjacent spaces.

**Bays Market District**

- Consideration should be given to the closure of Bridge Road to enable the integration of the foreshore of Blackwattle Bay with the adjacent parklands adjacent to Wentworth Park. This could involve appropriately scaled commercial to be blended with the public spaces.

- Relocate both concrete batching plants into the Glebe Island/White Bay port precinct.

**White Bay Power Station**

- Develop as a mixed cultural and educational centre. Educational elements could include:
  - The TAFE Maritime School currently located at Meadowbank. This would provide the opportunity for students to undertake vocational training in one of the adjacent working harbour industries within broader the precinct.
  - Training schools for ‘knowledge’ industries which may come into the precinct.
White Bay including White Bay Cruise Terminal

- Retention of commercial port activity as long as it is required.
- Support for port related ‘working harbour’ activities within the precinct currently under the management of the Port Authority of NSW.
- Diversion of all port related traffic to a dedicated port access road to minimise any impact on the already congested local road system.
- Improved public open space to the extent that it does not conflict with the port requirements.
- Improve accessibility to the Cruise-ship Passenger Terminal such that it is not a dead and isolated place when not servicing cruise-ships. The Circular Quay overseas passenger terminal seems to provide a good model.
- Improved public transport into the precinct by way of ferry and light rail.
- Continuation of light rail to the city via a tunnel so as to provide a public transport link from the passenger terminal to the city.
- Minimise any further residential development adjacent to port and working harbour activities having regard to compatibility of use and the already high population density in the area.
- Maintain a land-link for the Harbour islands.

The Bays Precinct provides and wonderful opportunity to provide for an enlivened commercial port which better relates to its immediate community through an improved port access corridor, improved public transport access to the precinct, greater public access and diversification of activities which do not conflict with the commercial port.

Yours faithfully,

Mal and Amanda Hiley